

Dates to Remember

October 29, 2006
Daylight Savings Time Ends
The area and trails will close at 5:00 p.m. daily

November 6, 7 & 8, 2006
Archery Managed Deer Hunt
The area is closed to the public, the Nature Center is available to the public.

November 23, 2006
Observation of Thanksgiving Day
The Nature Center and Area will be closed.

December 4, 5 & 6, 2006
Managed Muzzleload Deer Hunt
The area is closed to the public, the Nature Center is available to the public.

December 25, 2006
Observation of Christmas Day
The Nature Center and Area will be closed.

January 1, 2007
Observation of New Year Day
The Nature Center and Area will be closed.

Fourth Annual Photography Competition



You asked for it! Our fourth annual photography competition is here! Completed entries must be submitted to nature center no later than December 15th. Photographs will be on display during the month of January. All photographs must be taken at Burr Oak Woods. Subject matter may include landscapes, wildlife, people or events at Burr Oak Woods. Photography contest rules and regulations will be available at the front desk beginning October 1st.



The Nutshell
Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015

PRSR.TSTD.
US POSTAGE PAID
JEFFERSON CITY MO
PERMIT 274



The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 20 October 2006 Number 10



My Heart Belongs to Missouri

We often don't appreciate what's in our own backyard. I didn't. After college I got the itch to explore. "I've lived in Missouri my whole life! There's nothing to do here, I want to live somewhere exciting!" So I joined the National Park Service and traveled for three years. The Black Hills and prairies of South Dakota, the desert and caves of New Mexico, and the Great Lakes of Michigan were my home. It was amazing, but I knew where I belonged.

I belonged to the Ozark stream I played in as a child; where I discovered the magic of water and the cycles of life. I belonged to my grandparent's north Missouri farm; where I flushed bobwhite quail from the fields and spent countless hours catching fireflies. I belonged to the hardwood forest; where I helped my dad cut firewood and plant new trees. My heart belonged to Missouri and I had to return.

This summer I became the new naturalist at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center. Over the past few months I have been rediscovering Missouri outdoors. In July, I was fishing for crappie and bass. In August, my kayak shared the stream with a red-eared slider. Hiking the September woods, I came across puffballs and ripe hazelnuts. This month I plan to sleep next to campfires and enjoy the fall colors.

October is a great month to be outside. Attend a naturalist-led program and learn something new. Spend the afternoon on a trail. Dust off your tackle box and take the kids fishing. The Missouri Department of Conservation manages eight natural areas in Jackson County alone. Explore them! I challenge you to rediscover Missouri outdoors. You have a remarkable backyard.

Amy Juhala, Naturalist



Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!

October Programs

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please call 816-228-3766 **ON OR AFTER THE FIRST OF THE MONTH** to register for the free programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

3 Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Choosing, Planting, and Caring for Trees in your Landscape

Adults Only (20 and up)

Fall is a wonderful time to plant trees in your landscape. Come learn what species do well in our area and how to plant them to ensure survival. Urban Forester Chuck Conner will discuss all aspects of planting and caring for new landscape trees. Please call to register.



6 Friday, 6:00 p.m. through

7 Saturday, 8:00 a.m.

Conservation Kid's Club:

Take a Parent Camping Night

Ages 7 – 10



Our special night is finally here! Join us for our 5th annual Take Your Parent Camping Night. We will meet at Watkins Mill State Park at 6:00 pm for our fun-filled, action packed night of fun and natural

surprises! Your child must have participated in at least one Kid's Club Program during the previous school year to participate in this campout. A parent must accompany their child(ren). Please call to register.

7 Saturday, 9:00 pm – 11:00 a.m.

Family Fishing

Families (with children 5 and up)

It is a delightfully cool autumn morning and that means it's a perfect morning to bait the hooks and have some good ol' fashioned fun at the Burr Oak Woods' educational pond. Equipment and worms will be provided. We will teach your children the basics of fishing and then they'll have the chance to try their luck. Attendees 16 to 65 yr MUST have a valid fishing license, available for purchase at the nature center. Please call to register.

7 Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Burr Oak Woods Hiking Adventures:

Weston Bend

Adults Only (20 and up)

Join us as we hike beautiful Weston Bend State Park. We will hike the West Ridge trail which will take us from forested bluffs to Bee Creek where Indians were once relocated. The trail varies from dirt to pavement and is mildly strenuous. We will leave the nature center promptly at 9am. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a snack and water to drink. Please call to register.

7 Saturday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

Ages 2 and up

Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. We are only limited by our imagination. Your child(ren) will not want to miss these stories of exploration and discovery. No registration required.

8 Sunday, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Glorious October

Adults and Families (with children 7 and up)

Join a naturalist for an incredible interpretive hike as we enjoy the Habitat Trail at Burr Oak Woods. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Please call to register.



14 Saturday, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Underground Adventure:

An Introduction to Caving

Ages 8 and up

Missouri is home to over 5,700 caves and new ones are discovered each year! Join a naturalist as we learn how cavers dress for the underground and study the critters and formations they find. Then help us explore Burr Oak Woods only "indoor" cave. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please call to register.

21 Saturday 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Women in the Outdoors in cooperation with
The Wild Turkey Federation, South River Gobblers Chapter

Women Only (18 and up)

The kids are back in school and you are ready for a break. Did you ever wish you knew how to fish, safely shoot a gun, or canoe down one of Missouri's Ozark streams? How about cook over a campfire with a dutch oven, take great nature photographs, or participate in a letterboxing adventure plus more. If this sounds interesting to you this is a full day adventure just for you! Bring a friend to make this a special day the two of you can share together. We have



enthusiastic, patient instructors skilled at teaching both beginners and those that may want to tweak their skills. This day is for everyone! You won't want to miss it! Call 816/228-3766 for a Registration Form or for more information.

Events 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Optional Wild Game Dinner 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Registration:

Regular Registration: \$50
(Postmarked by October 1)

Late Registration: \$55
(Postmarked after October 1)

24 Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Prune Like a Pro

Adults Only (20 and up)

Most trees fail in storms due to pre-existing defects that could have been corrected with proper pruning practices. Urban Forester Chuck Conner will teach you how to train newly planted trees as well as proper pruning for mature trees in your landscape. Please call to register.



26 Thursday, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Wild Edibles: Soup and Fable

Adults Only (20 and up)

We will venture into the woods illuminated by the harvest moon to savor a wide variety of delectable wild edible soups! We will share a few of our favorite recipes, and then relax with a bowl of soup to warm our hands for some storytelling around the campfire! Don't miss this unforgettable experience. Please call to register.

27 Friday, 11:00 – Noon

Babes in the Woods: Fall Colors Hike

Ages Birth – 2

We will be meeting at the head of the Habitat Trail and heading out in search of beautiful fall leaves! This trail is wood-chipped and a little bumpy for some strollers. Backpack carriers and large-wheeled strollers work great! Pack a lunch and we'll dine under the forest canopy. For moms and dads of children ages birth through 2 years old. Please call to register.



28 Saturday, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Deer Stalking

Families

(with children 7 and up)

Early morning is the best time to see deer. Wear long pants and long sleeves and wear hiking shoes and tick repellent. We'll bushwhack Burr Oak Woods in search of the elusive white-tailed deer. Bring binoculars and/or a camera to capture the fall colors and hopefully a deer or two. Please call to register.



29 Sunday, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

SSSSSnakesssss....

Understanding can lead to Appreciation

Families

The word alone makes some shudder. Why do we react this way? Come out and learn about these fascinating creatures. Fear can be alleviated by getting to know snake habits and learning how to identify them. Participants will have an up-close encounter. No registration required.



LITTLE ACORNS: ***Slithering Serpents***

24 Tuesday

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

26 Thursday

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Ages 3 – 6

From black to green, big to small, snakes come in an amazing assortment. Come learn about our legless wonders and discover how snakes crawl on their bellies and climb trees with no hands! LIVE AND IN PERSON! We will even send you home with your very own paper snake! Please call to register.



HOMESCHOOL: ***Celebrating Outdoor Missouri***

11 Wednesday

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Ages 3 – 5 and 6 – 8

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Ages 9 – 11 and 12 and up

What could be more beautiful than a Missouri forest in October? Why are the leaves changing colors? What are the animals doing to get ready for winter? Join us as we look closely at Burr Oak Woods and celebrate the wonder of outdoor Missouri. Dress for being outdoors. Wear sturdy shoes for cross country exploration. Please call to register.



For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at www.burroakwoods.org